

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /072 W

----- 045275

R 031400Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8377

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSULATE MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CZ

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

REF: PRAGUE A-95, JULY 4, 1975 (NOTAL)

1. A TWO-DAY PLENUM OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE OPENED JULY 2 IN PRAGUE, AN EVENT REPORTED BY AL CZECHOSLOVAK MEDIA. PLENUM DISCUSSION CENTERED JULY 2 ON THE FIFTEENTH KSC CONGRESS, ANNOUNCED FOR APRIL 1976, CONFIRMATION AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY SET DOWN AT THE NOVEMBER 1974 KSC CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM, AND DRAFTING KSC GUIDELINES FOR THE 1978-80 FIVE-YEAR PLAN. DEBATE ON FIRST DAY WAS LED OFF BY HUSAK, FOLLOWED BY VARIOUS CC SECRETARIES AND PRESIDIUM MEMBERS BILAK, STROUGAL AND COLOTKA. TO THE EXTENT IT IS BEING REPORTED, THE PLENUM TALK SEEMS TO BE EMPHASIZING THE VALIDITY

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OF THE KSC'S NOVEMBER 1974 LINE ON OVERCOMING ECONOMIC

PROBLEMS RATHER THAN PROMULGATING NEW ECONOMIC APPROACHES.
ONCE THE SESSION ENDS JULY 3, IT MAY BECOME CLEAR WHETHER
MATTERS MORE CONTROVERSIAL THAN THOSE NOTED IN THE PRESS ARE
BEING TAKEN UP.

2. AS AN UNUSUAL ASPECT WHOSE MEANING MAY BECOME APPARENT
ONCE THE KSC CC PLENARY WINDS UP, WE NOTE THAT THE SLOVAK
RPT SLOVAK CP CNETRAL COMMITTEE MET IN PLENARY SESSION ON
JUNE 24; THIS CAME ONE WEEK BEFORE THE KSC CC PLENUM WAS
CALLED--ITSELF NO SURPRISE, HAVING BEEN POSTPONED FROM EARLY
JUNE BY MOST ACCOUNTS. A SLOVAK CP CC MEETING JUST IN
ADVANCE OF A KSC CC PLENARY IS QUITE NOVEL. IN DECEMBER, LAST YEAR,
A PREDICTABLE SLOVAK CP CC PLENUM WAS CALLED RIGHT AFTER THE KSC
NOVEMBER GATHERING, OSTENSIBLY TO DECLARE PUBLIC SLOVAK CP
ALLEGIANCE TO THE MUCH-HERALDED KSC "NOVEMBER LINE." IN
ITSELF, THIS WAS NOT SURPRISING. BUT EVIDENCE POINTS TO JUST
THE OPPOSITE AS HAVING HAPPENED: SLOVAK CP DEBATE OVER THE
UNWORKABILITY OF NOVEMBER KSC DECISIONS WHICH SPILLED OVER,
IN MUTED FORM, TO THE NEWSPAPERS. THE KSC LEADERSHIP--
READ HUSAK--FINALLY SAW FIT TO SEND PRIME MINISTER STROUGAL
TO BRATISLAVA TO CHAIR THE "REAL" SLOVAK PLENUM FOR CONFIRM-
ING THE NOVEMBER LINE, WHICH MET IN JANUARY TO DECLARE THE
NECESSARY ALLEGIANCE AND, INCIDENTALLY, TO RELEGATE
THE DECEMBER SLOVAK CC PLENUM TO OBLIVION AS A NON-EVENT.

4. A LESSON PERHAPS HAVING BEEN LEARNED, KSC LEADERS--
AGAIN AT HUSAK'S BEHEST--MAY HAVE BEEN FLOATING TRIAL BALLOONS
AT LAST WEEK'S SLOVAK CC PLENARY, LETTING THE SLOVAK BRETHREN
KNOW WHAT KSC PLENUM DECISIONS THEY WOULD BE CALLED UPON
TO SUPPORT AND--IN THE BEST TRADITION OF DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM
--PERHAPS EVEN GETTING A BETTER GRASP ON HOW THE KSC ITSELF
SHOULD PROMULGATE ITS PLENUM DECREES THIS WEEK TO BEST
AVOID SLOVAK CP RANCOR. THE FOREGOING IS NECESSARILY
SPECULATIVE, AND WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR FURTHER EVIDENCE
IN THIS INTRIGUING MATTER FO THE TIMING OF THE PLENUMS.

PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, COMMUNISTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRAGUE01626
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750231-1103
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750787/aaaadado.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PRAGUE A-95, 75 JULY 4, 75 1975
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <07 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM
TAGS: PINT, CZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006